

## **Youth Resource Connections**

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### **Headlines**

**U.S. Department of Education announces grants to improve school counseling programs.** The Department of Education has awarded \$20 million to 60 school districts in 26 states to improve school counseling programs. Schools are expected to use the funds to establish or expand elementary and secondary schools counseling, hire and train qualified school counselors, school psychologists and adolescent psychiatrist. For additional information visit: <http://www.ed.gov>.

**U.S. Department of Labor awards funds for national IT Apprenticeship Program.** The Employment Training Administration has awarded a \$2.8 million grant to the Computing Technology Industry Association. These funds will be used to continue building a National Information Technology Apprenticeship system to provide consistent credentialing for IT career development. For additional information visit: <http://www.dol.gov>.

**Secretary Chao participates in White House sponsored Roundtable Discussion on Job Training Programs for Ex-Offenders.** The Secretary announced plans for the Ready4 Work Initiative, a \$22.5 million re-entry workforce development project. Public/Private Ventures and national non-profit partners will mobilize local coalitions to work together to develop sustainable ex-offender re-entry programs and to improve outcomes for ex-offenders in the communities in which they live. Ready4Work will operate in 15 to 18 cities across the nation. For more information contact Donna Kelly at 202-693-3934.

**Youth Rules! Marks One-Year Anniversary.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division announced the expansion of the YouthRules! YouthRules! is a public awareness campaign to bring teens, parents, educators, and employers together to promote safe and rewarding work experiences for young workers. Information about YouthRules! and the new agriculture material can be found at: <http://www.youthrules.dol.gov>.

**Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) develops Spanish In-Home Learning System.** TWC is working with a number of local workforce development boards to develop a Spanish In-Home Learning System that uses technology to help Spanish-speaking individuals increase their quality of life and improve their workforce skills. The program will bring computers, internet access and customized educational content to people with low literacy and little or no computer skills. For more information interested persons should contact the nearest local workforce investment area office.

## ***Program Spotlight***

**WorkReady Pennsylvania.** WorkReady Philadelphia, a program under the auspices of the Workforce Investment Board's Philadelphia Youth Council placed 8,500 students, ages 14-21 in summer jobs this year. Executives in corporations help to connect youth to the world of work and life beyond their neighborhood. WorkReady offers customer service credentials to students who work in hospitality and financial service jobs. For more information visit: <http://www.workreadyphila.com>.

**Connecticut Youth Leadership Forum.** The State of Connecticut provides a leadership forum for youth with disabilities. For one week more than 30 youth with various disabilities participate in an intensive leadership training project at the University of Connecticut. For more information about the forum visit: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/ylf/about.htm>

**Achieving Independence Center.** The Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation and City's Department of Human Services assists youth transitioning from the foster care system. The Achieving Independence Center provides life skills training, education assistance, technology training, housing information, and employment assistance. Youth also receive hands on job training through the center's Independence Cafe. For more information call 215-574-3194.

**Horizons train's youth for transition to college.** Horizons, a program in Luzerne County, PA combines academic coursework and support services to facilitate youth transition from high school/GED to college. It is designed for out-of-school youth ages 18-21. The 30 day program offers students developmental college courses in writing and math, lab fees, tutoring, and books. Participants also receive assistance applying for financial aid, career planning and other information that increases their chances for success in a college setting. Additional information maybe obtained by contacting Paul O'Malia at the LCWIDA in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

## ***Funding Opportunities***

**The American Library Association announces a partnership project.** The Library Association Program in conjunction with WNET television in New York announced a partnership to support 15 libraries to teach youth math using an animated TV web series. Outreach sites will receive a \$42,000 grant to use toward program cost and support materials and services. For more information visit: <http://www.ala.org/content/navigation/menu>.

**Verizon Foundation Offers Grants to Texas Nonprofit Group for Literacy Projects.** Nonprofit organizations and education institutions in Texas are invited to compete for \$500,000 in grants to support literacy projects for adults and youth. Verizon seeks proposals that support reading, reading recovery, English as a Second Language, childhood literacy, and other efforts to improve reading skills. To qualify for funding, applicants must have 501(c)(3) status with a valid Internal Revenue Service tax ID. Schools must have a current National Center for Education Statistics school and district registration to qualify. Additional information may be obtained at: <http://foundation.verizon.com>. **Deadline: September 5.**

**Toy Industry Foundation (TIF) Announces RFP for U.S. and Canadian Organizations Serving Children in Need.** TIF will award up to seven grants in the amount of \$25,000 to improve the lives of youth. Organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply. Proposals should be consistent with current TIF policies and guidelines. For complete funding guidelines, visit: <http://www.toy-tia.org/industry/ATI/index.html>. **Deadline: August 31.**

**VSA Arts and Volkswagen of America Offers Opportunity for Young Artists with Disabilities.** VSA seeks applications from artists with physical, cognitive, or mental disabilities, ages 16 to 25, living within the U.S. to participate in a juried exhibit entitled "Road Trip A Journey of Discovery." Fifteen finalists will receive \$30,000 with recognition at a public exhibition in Washington, DC. Complete program guidelines and entry forms are available at the VSA arts website, visit: <http://www.vsarts.org/gallery/callsforart/vw/index.html>. **Deadline: August 15.**

**U.S. Department of Education accepts grants applications for Parental Information and Resource Center.** The Department of Education is accepting grant applications to establish and maintain Parental Information and Resource Centers for parents of children in poorly performing schools. Local education agencies working as part of a consortium with non profit organizations are eligible to apply. Grants will range from \$200,000 to \$700,000. For more information contact Patricia Kilby-Robb at 202-260-2225. **Deadline: July 18.**

### ***Publications/Reports/Resources***

**New Study Uncovers Hidden Dropout Crisis.** The Center for Labor Market Studies (CLMS) at Northeastern University published a study on the nation's high school dropout rate. The study shows that 25 to 30 percent of students in America do not graduate with a high school diploma. It also reveals that males 20 to 30 percent are more likely to drop out of school than females, contributing to the increasing gender gap at colleges and universities. For more information contact Christine Phelan at 617-373-5455.

**Leave No Youth Behind: New Report Urges Congress to focus on Disconnected Youth.** The Center for Law and Social Policy released a report which indicates that the US has no coherent policy to help disconnected youth become productive members of society. "Disconnected Youth" are those young people aged 16-24 who are out of school and out of work for a sustained period and are without ready access to social and family support. The report is available at: <http://www.clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1057083505.88/DisconnectedYouth.pdf>.

**Using Title I to Support Out-of-School Time and Community School Initiatives.** The Finance Project produced a strategy brief highlighting the use of Title I funds to improve educational outcomes for students at risk of educational failure. The brief also provides other uses of Title I funds, which may include out-of-school time programs, parents literacy training, parenting classes, and coordinated community school strategies. To obtain a copy of the brief visit: <http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/Publications/Brief10.pdf>.

### ***Calendar of Events***

**July 9-12. Claremont, CA.** Youth to Youth International. Western States Regional Youth Leadership Conference. Contact: (614) 224-4506 or visit: <http://www.y2yint.com/>.

**July 14-16. New Haven, CT.** Yale University School of the 21st Century. Partners for Success: Linking Communities, Families, and Schools. Contact: (203) 432-9944 or visit <http://www.yale.edu/21c>.

**July 15-18. New Orleans, LA.** Crisis Prevention Institute. Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training Seminar. Contact: (800) 558-8976 or visit: <http://www.crisisprevention.com/>.

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Technical Assistance Update for July 11, 2003

**July 16-18. Omaha, NE.** Girls Inc. Kid-Ability! Training. Contact: (402) 457-4676, [calles@girlsincomaha.org](mailto:calles@girlsincomaha.org).

**July 16-18 Raleigh, NC.** Gesell Institute. Older Child Workshops. Contact: (203) 777-3481 or visit: <http://www.gesellinstitute.org/>.

**July 16-August 1. Portland, OR.** Intercultural Communication Institute. Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication (three sessions: July 16-18, July 21-25 and July 28-Aug. 1). Contact: (503) 297-4622, or visit: <http://www.intercultural.org/>.

**July 23-26 Orlando, FL.** American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. 11th Annual Colloquium. Contact: (405) 271-8202, <http://www.apsac.org/>.

**July 24-25 Minneapolis, MN.** Search Institute. Building Development Assets in School Communities: Training of Trainers. Contact: (800) 294-4322, or visit: <http://www.search-institute.org/>.

**July 28-30 Washington, DC.** National Institute of Justice. Annual Conference on Criminal Research and Evaluation. . Contact: (202) 393-2000, or visit: <http://www.nijpcs.org/RE/RE2003/index.htm>.

**July 30-August 1 Philadelphia, PA.** Child Welfare League of America. Fourth National Kinship Care Conference. Contact: (202) 662-4286 and <http://www.cwla.org/conferences>.

**August 4-7 Minneapolis, MN.** University of Minnesota Center for Adolescent Nursing. Linking Youth Development and Sexuality Education. Contact: (612) 626-4772, or visit: <http://www.nursing.umn.edu/>.

**August 6-8 Jacksonville, FL.** Gesell Institute. Older Child Workshops. Contact: (203) 777-3481 or visit: <http://www.gesellinstitute.org/>.

### **YRC ALERT for FEDERAL DOL subscribers**

**Due to the implementation of the new email system, ALL DOL FEDERAL STAFF must re-subscribe to the LISTSERV. This should assure that you receive the newsletter publication in a timely manner.**

**Youth Resource Connections** is a technical assistance update published bi-weekly by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Office of Youth Services (OYS).

**Youth Resource Connections** provides important announcements and information for state and local workforce investment boards, youth councils, youth service providers, Youth Opportunity Grant sites, partners, and others interested in youth development.

**We welcome your input.** Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please call 202-639-3037.

**How to Subscribe to or Unsubscribe from Youth Resource Connections:** 1) Log on to [http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/); 2) Click the "Subscribe to Youth Resource Connections" icon right above the Hot Topics; 3) Follow the prompts given.